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‘was passing therewith over the ferry, one asked if he could tame the vessel, seeing he could sometimes tame men; he answered, I have that here, which it may be will tame her and make her quiet, shewing his warrant, and at the same instant the ship began to stop her motion and swim upright, which had continued rolling after a strange manner about twelve hours, and after Jones was in prison she never moved in that kind any more.’

We need not recommend this history, for none but lovers of historical antiquity will read it; and to such we could offer no stronger inducement than its title page. However, the curious inquirer into our language may find words of strange combination that may exercise his wit, and perhaps cause him to regret their disuse. *Mercate, incolumity, conductitions* and *acupict* have struck us. If the substance of this volume should fail to engage the attention of posterity, which may have more authentick and original materials of information, its style will always be an object of curiosity to those who recollect, that the author was in the first class of graduates at Harvard College.

American Jurisprudence, written and published at Washington, being a few reflections, suggested on reading ‘Wheaton on Captures.’ Washington, printed 8vo. pp. 52.

The laws against poachers in some countries, are so extremely severe, that a man may be sent to the gallies, or even executed for killing a hare or a pheasant. Though it is our rightful jurisdiction to make game of folly and absurdity, and run down their authors, yet in this country the laws afford us no more protection than they do to other sportsmen. In the present case we have detected a poacher, who, though he has not interfered with our *reserves* above alluded to, yet has clearly invaded our manour; he has sought to disguise himself as having a regular license, because, after the most approved models, he hardly notices the work which he professes to have in view. The indignation we felt at this invasion of our rights was however soon allayed in perusing his performance, by the pleasure derived from its *naïveté*; which is its most striking characteristic, a quality of all others the rarest to be met with.

This is the prevailing feature, and which would have led to his detection on the first examination, as it is never witnessed in the harsh, forbidding countenances of criticks.

The first instance we cite from the 13th page, in which there is the following figure. 'The Constitution with Captain Hull in her, did not come down upon the Gueriere in 'a spirit of more daring and triumphant energy, than the 'Philadelphia or New-York lawyers will sometimes do 'upon a statute that happens to run a little amiss!' The author has modestly put only one note of admiration to this sentence: he does himself injustice; the most phlegmatick reader would give it three or four. It is one of the vexations attending celebrity, that a man who achieves it sees his face vilely caricatured in magazines, or hung up on a sign-post to some sorry inn, or become the theme of vulgar plaudits and bombastick speeches. The officer who is here lugged in so unexpectedly, for a companion with a cavilling 'Philadelphia or New-York lawyer,' though he is as conspicuous for his modesty as his merit, must submit to the common fate of those who serve their country.

The next example is still more precious, because it is not only *naïveté*, but professional *naïveté*, and this too in a profession where it is the rarest of all exoticks.

'Lastly in the structure of our judicature, we have a multitude of different sorts of Courts. We have Courts of 'common law and Courts of Chancery, Admiralty and 'Maritime Courts, Courts civil and Courts criminal, sittings 'at nisi prius and full terms in bank, register's courts, orphan's courts, escheator's courts, justices' courts, with the 'many gradations of some of them, and with others that 'might be made to swell the catalogue. It may be said, 'that this is nothing more than the judicial polity of other 'countries, particularly Britain, is liable to; that if you will 'begin at the piepoudre, and go up to the peers in parliament, you will run through, under some modification or 'other, as long an enumeration. This may be true. But 'the difference is, that the profession here is not subdivided 'in any of the states, in the way that it is in England, and 'the American lawyer is called upon at one period, or other 'of his life, to understand the constitution of each of these 'forms; to be familiar at least with their principles if not 'with their forms, as he passes on through the usual stages 'to the head of his profession.'

What a proof is here given of the force of habit ; with what complacency, with what triumph does he run over this terrific list, at the bare recital of which, a common man shudders with affright ; *steteruntque comæ et vox faucibus hæsit* : it reminds us of a conversation between two medical friends of ours. While comparing the relative advantages of our country with those of others, one of them rather despondingly remarked, that we had neither plague, elephantiasis, plica polonica nor goitres : the other to console him enthusiastically replied ; but we have yellow fever, and spotted fever, and influenza, and dyspepsia !

In speaking of Sir William Scott he has struck out the following sentence—‘ In an argument where the utmost attenuation of thought is drawn out into corresponding exilities of expression, he labours with abortive yet splendid ingenuity ‘ to shew, that justice and such rescripts must ever be in ‘ harmonious union.’ However fine this may be we denounce it ; there is no such word as *exilities*, and none such is wanted. There are plainer synonymous ones that will answer for most of the things done at Washington. Every new material for a pompous inanity of style should be rigidly proscribed. There are some writers who think they have made a conquest if they have only introduced a barbarous word. Goldsmith once told Johnson, ‘ that if he ‘ were writing fables and introducing little fishes, he would ‘ make them talk like great whales.’ Johnson’s example has done much mischief ; his hard words have been admired for their own merits, when they were only to be tolerated for the sentiments they conveyed. Since his time we are often disturbed by the foppery of those, who, utterly unable to wield the club, still cover themselves with the Nemean skin.

The writer says some handsome and some just things of this celebrated English Admiralty Judge. If to his integrity, his sagacity, his great learning, and luminous style, he had united greater firmness and elevation of mind ; had he have refused to act while the permanent principles of the laws of nations were superseded by the iniquitous edicts of shortsighted politicians, then indeed his name would have gone to posterity, as one of the greatest men of his age ; as it is, it will be recorded as one of the ablest.

We have one more quotation to make : ' In throwing out ' a conjectural sentiment, and one not altogether hasty, we ' presume to think that the law-mind, if we may so speak, ' of the United States has, from adequate causes, forerun ' the general condition of literature, and already been ' accelerated and matured into as much force and discipline ' as it is likely to reach in any more distant period of the ' country's advancement.' Now can any one say with certainty what is the meaning of this ? what is the precise signification of *the law-mind of the United States* ? We might guess at its meaning, because we inhabit a district where to guess is a birthright, the constant exercise of which is notorious, but we are unable to say with certainty what is the exact idea the author intended to express ; yet it will not be at all surprising if this term should become popular ; in the neighbourhood where it originated, it bears such a strong resemblance to some old favourites, that it may well be adopted.

This pamphlet has been attributed to an officer of high rank in the law ; which we hope may have been done without any foundation. The extracts we have made are its most prominent defects ; they are however sufficient to show a false and puerile taste. Yet we believe the author is capable of doing better : a comparison between American and English jurisprudence, and the lawyers of the two countries, is an interesting subject, but requires extensive acquaintance with both to do it justice.

Poems by William Cowper, Esq. Vol. 3d, containing his posthumous poetry, and a sketch of his life, by his kinsman, John Johnson, Rector of Yaxham.—Boston. Published by Wells and Lilly, 1815. pp. 307.

An accession to the works of Cowper is an event of no small interest to the reading world. There are few instances in which less is to be apprehended from the officious industry of friends, in gleaning scattered fragments, which were never intended for the publick, or which the author judged to be unworthy of publication. After the intimate acquaintance which Hayley has enabled us to form with Cowper, we are confident, that not even the activity of interested publishers will be able to hunt up any of his remaining produc-